



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Minutes 12/09/2009

Fiscal Resources Task Group - Vision 2020  
 Minutes of Meeting 12/09/09

Present: Gordon Jamieson (Chair), David Garbarino, Peter Lloyd-Evans, Pete Howard (Secretary)

### 1 - Review of Discussion w/ Treasurer Gilligan

Water/Sewer: Gordon to draft letter to BoS suggesting the grace period for W/S billing be shortened. A 1 time windfall of approximately \$750-1000K to be used to fund ongoing operations. Group to continue to push for installation of new electronic metering system.

Trust funds: Treasurer's plan is to include in annual report. Gordon to draft letter to thank treasurer for making this change & attending FRTG mtg.

Communication/mailings: Treasurer will permit buck slip inclusion in many if not all mailings. Gordon to draft a letter to Town Manager, Superintendent, BoS explaining how this option might work. ARC may be first to utilize.

Online payment/online fee issue: Gordon to draft a letter to FinCom discussing the advantages & savings if the Town absorbed the handling fee. Letter should go to Chair & to Finances SubCom: Foscett, Dunn, McGaffigan, Carman

Additional items: See Nov minutes. No FRTG followup.

2 - V2020 Census Insert Survey: Pete noted that the questions suggested by the FRTG got the ball rolling. Several were opposed by the Town. After a nearly continuous month long effort and negotiations with the town mgr's office the survey is almost finished. The resulting questions are less alarming and less innovative than we would like but more daring than the Town would prefer.

3 - My tax dollars: Peter is willing to tie his spread sheet to the spread sheet behind the FinCom Report. Since the meeting, Alan Jones has agreed to provide the FY10 budget summary to Peter. Alan has also reviewed the FY09 MyTaxDollars as requested by the Town Manager. Manager to look into a couple of small discrepancies that Alan found.

### 4 - Warrant article(s)

- SOTTA Pete drafted an Article 2 "Give the SOTTA" for comment.. The Moderator suggested an article to require a SOTTA by-law. The Town Council suggested including in the BoS Report as part of a committee report. We agreed that the latter suggestion would tend to undercut the gravitas desired we would like for the SOTTA. Perhaps we should submit 2 articles (by-law to cover future years and single year warrant article to cover 2010. Pete to follow up w/ Anne LaCourt (BoS rep to Vision 2020) and maybe Diane Mahon, who is the anticipated chair apparent of the BoS for 2010-2011 time period

- Use of Reserves. Gordon proposed an article that would enable the subsequent Annual Town Meeting to transfer funds from the General Fund for urgent reasons w/o calling a Special Town Meeting and to have this become a 'regular' article as it is in numerous other towns in the Commonwealth. Gordon also suggested a similar article that would permit a one time transfer of funds from various stabilization funds into the General Fund. A spirited discussion followed with several members expressing concern about how one would provide adequate protection regarding the use of funds. Members were also concerned with weakening the strength of the existing budgeting system/mechanism.

5 - Retrospective 5yr Report - Gordon provided a handout for home study & discussion in Jan. He also suggested a

reorganization of the insurance budget presentation in the FinCom report. Pete will discuss w/ Tosti & Jones.

Subsequently Pete talked w/ Jones who is open to suggestions & recommended a broader review of these kinds of questions to get FinCom, Town Manager & FRTG on same page. If the Deputy Town Manager does leave, this might be a timely discussion.

6 - Next Meeting - Wed 1/13/10 at 7:30PM